An Interagency Incident Support Website

SACC Southern Area Coordination Center

Mobilizing Incident Resources ...throughout the Southeastern U.S.

SOUTHERN FIRE BEHAVIOR OUTLOOK

FORECAST VALID FOR: October 2, 2011	**DATE/TIME ISSUED: October 2, 2011 @ 0830**
NEXT UPDATE: October 3, 2011	**SIGNED: Francis Mohr**

*This is a general fire behavior outlook for the Southern Geographic Area. It is intended to provide wildland fire managers with an overall view of fire behavior potential and to assist wildland firefighters with making sound decisions and maintaining situational awareness based on current and expected fire behavior. This outlook is not intended to replace onsite observations and fire behavior, or spot weather forecasts issued by the National Weather Service.

Some products provided in the outlook often are not updated prior to posting. Refer to updated information on the Southern Area Coordination Center Website as it becomes available: http://gacc.nifc.gov/sacc/index.htm

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Fire Weather Summary:

Red Flag Warnings/Fire Weather Watches and Advisories

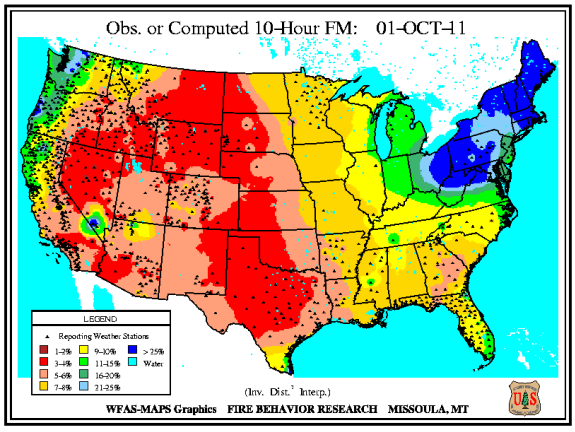
Southern Coastal area --- AL & north FL; TX & OK Panhandle area

- For complete fire weather information and specific detailed forecasts see: http://www.weather.gov
- Refer to the MesoWest Regional Surface Maps to access weather observations. http://mesowest.utah.edu/index.html
- For updated fire danger and fuel moisture values link to: http://wfas.net/

Fuels Conditions:

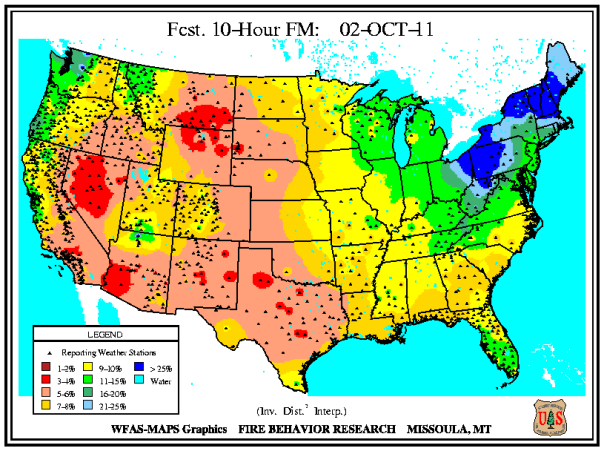
State of the Fuels will be updated daily to reflect the trend with changing weather conditions.

Observed 10 Hr. FM Saturday, Oct. 1, 2011

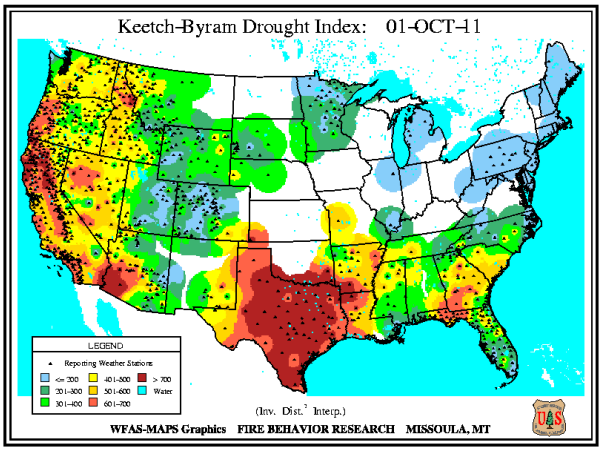


The one hour fuel moistures adjust more quickly to existing weather conditions and the potential of fire starts. The 10 hour fuel moistures are moderate to high in eastern portion of the region as result of recent rains. In Central Texas low 100 and 1000 hour fuel moistures are allowing fires to rapidly expand. These fuels pose increased difficulty of control and containment due to higher heat intensity and more extended mop-up.

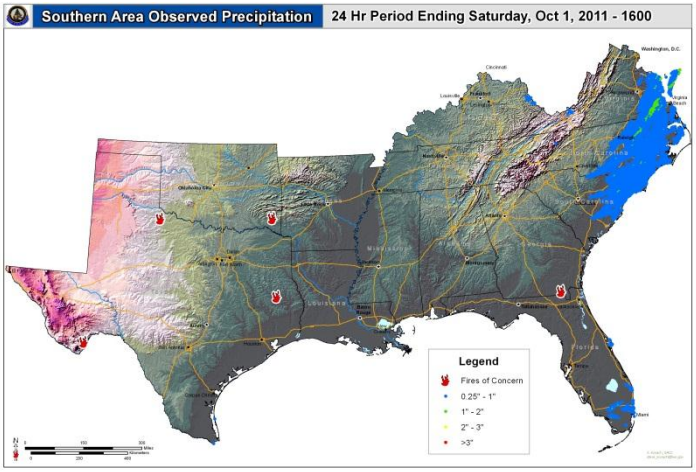
WFAS—10 Hr. Forecast Fuel Moisture, 10-2-11



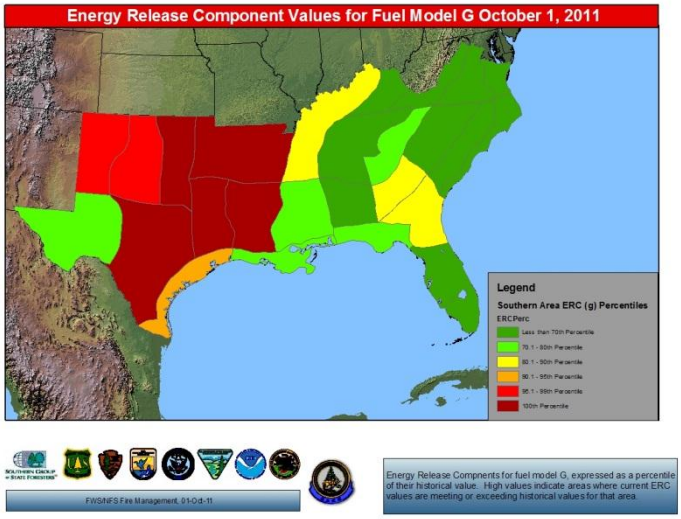
WFAS — KB Index 10-1-11



Southern Area – Precipitation for October 1, 2011



Southern Area ERC-G Summary Ending October 1, 2011



Fire Behavior Outlook

Central Texas

Moderate probability of large fire growth. Normal seasonal temperatures and RH's along with clear sunny skies will maintain low fine fuel moistures and conditions for high probability of ignition. New fire starts will spread as influenced by terrain and/or occasional wind gusts. Drought stress on live fuels has increased available fuel load above the ground surface, adding to a situation for quick combustion, rapid increased heat intensity, and escalating fire behavior. With current fuel conditions, a moderate sustaining wind could increase fire spread, behavior and size.

Eastern Central Texas

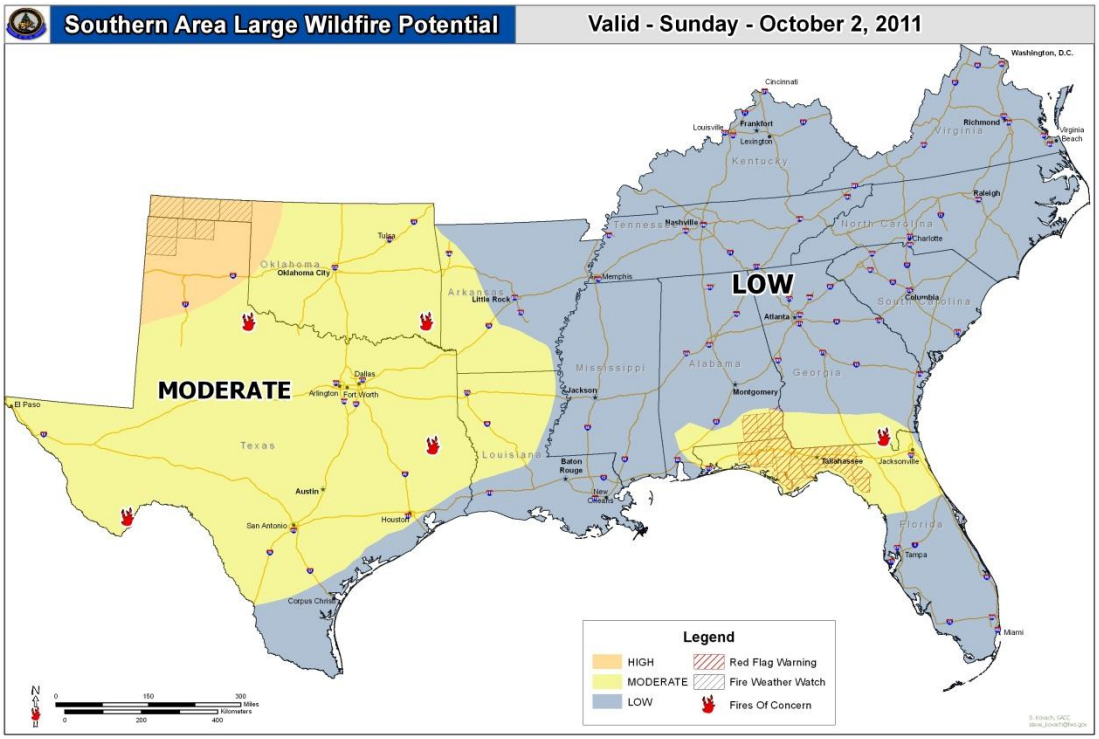
Moderate probability of large fire growth. Low moisture content of fine fuels in these fuel types are very receptive for ignitions as result of recent clear skies, normal to above seasonal temperatures and low seasonal RH's. Ten and hundred hr. fuels were not significantly affected by recent rains and still exhibit relatively low moisture contents. Juniper and Oaks are experiencing die-back due to the drought stress. This increases dead fuel loading and fire intensity of crown fuels. Moderate winds with occasional strong gusts could increase potential for spread, fire behavior and size.

Western Arkansas, Oklahoma, Western Texas, Panhandle

High – Moderate probability of large fire growth. The fuel bed in this area with a proportionate high loading of fine fuels is very receptive for fire starts. The 10 and 100 hr. fuel moisture contents are also low. Fire spread from new ignitions is influenced by local terrain and wind gusts. Stronger sustaining winds in Panhande could quickly increase potential for rapid spread, extreme behavior and size today.

Eastern and Central Areas of the South

Low – Moderate probability of large fire growth. Recent days of radiant heating, normal seasonal temperatures and humidity helped increased ignition probability. Stronger winds would heightened potential for fire intensity, behavior and size particularly in the southern coastal fuel types.



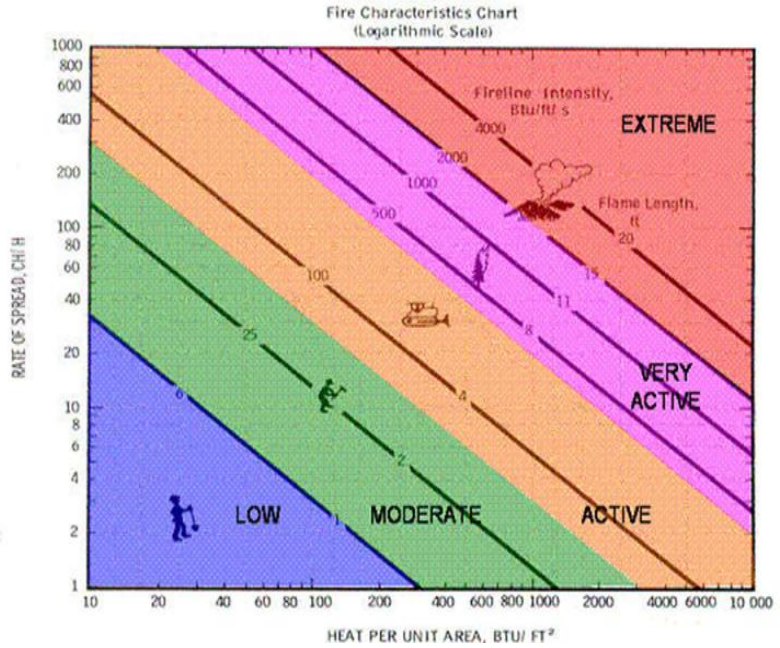
This product is intended to depict **GENERAL** fire behavior and large size potential in the Southern Area. Information summarized from various sources is applicable to the geographic area scale and not intended to provide site specific fire behavior conditions. Individual fire behavior forecasts using fuels, weather and topography must be used for specific incidents.

FIRE BEHAVIOR INTERPRETATION:

This tool provides an evaluation of potential effectiveness of various resources and capabilities based on a visual assessment of active flame length. The implications of observed or expected fire behavior are critical components of suppression strategies and tactics, in particular terms of determining resistance to control, effectiveness and safety of various resources.

FIRE BEHAVIOR ADJECTIVE RATING	FLAME LENGTH (FEET)	INTERPRETATION FOR APPROPRIATE FIRE MANAGEMENT RESPONSE
LOW	0-4	Generally attack at the head or flanks are successful, handline should hold fire with very little resistant to control.
MODERATE	4-8	Fire is too intense for direct attack at the head. Handline cannot be relied upon; additional support from engine, dozer, tractor plow or air support is needed.
HIGH	8-11	Fire can present control problems; torching, crowning and spotting can be expected. Control efforts at head of fire are often ineffective.
VERY HIGH	11+	Crown runs, intense surface burning and spotting are common; control efforts at head are ineffective.
EXTREME		Although uncommon, can best be described as erratic fire behavior that goes beyond human methods of control or prediction. Rare events such as well-developed and sustained fire whirls, independent crowning and plume dominated fire growth.

The Fire Characteristics Chart ("Hauling Chart") is an excellent tool for evaluating safety and potential effectiveness of fireline resources. The Hauling Chart is also a useful tool to help firefighters assess the relative difficulty of constructing and holding a control line as affected by the behavior of the fire.



Stay updated by viewing the Southern area 7 day Significant Fire Potential product:
http://gacc.nifc.gov/sacc/predictive/outlooks/Fire_Potential.htm
Longer range outlooks reference the Climate Prediction Center link:
http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/index.php